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—the simple cost of life and treasure. The still small voice of conscience, of humanity is drowned in the exultant shouts of victory. The generals are crowned by fame—the mass of the army suffers in obscurity.

If you will permit me, I will read to you a little poem in illustration of these last words. It is entitled "Io Victis," where the reverse of victory is attempted to be described.

I sing the hymn of the conquered—who fell in the battle of life,
The hymn of the wounded, the beaten, who died o'erwhelmed in the strife.
Not the jubilant song of the victors, for whom the resounding acclaim
Of nations was lifted in chorus, whose brows wore the chaplet of fame,—
But the hymn of the low and the humble, the weary, the broken in heart,
Who strove and who failed—acting bravely a silent and desperate part;
Whose youth bore no flower on its branches, whose hopes burned in ashes away,
From whose hands slipped the prize they had grasped at, who stood at the dying of day
With the wreck of their life all around them—unpitied, unheeded, alone—
With death swooping down on their failure, and all but their faith overthrown;
While the voice of the world shouts its chorus—its pæan for those who have won,—
While the trumpet is sounding triumphant, and high to the breeze and the sun
Glad banners are waving—hands clapping—and hurrying feet
Thronging after the laurel-crowned victors,—I stand on the field of defeat
In the shadow—with those who have fallen, and wounded, and dying, and there
Chant a requiem low, place my hand on their pain-knotted brows, breathe a prayer;
Hold the hand that is helpless and whisper,—“They only the victory win,
Who have fought the good fight and have vanquished the demon that tempts us within;
Who have held to their faith unseduced by the prize that the world holds on high,
Who have dared for a high cause to suffer, resist, fight—if need be, to die.”

Speak, History! Who are life's victors? Unroll thy long annals,
I say,—
Are they those whom the world calls the victors, who won the success of a day?
The martyrs or Nero? The Spartans who fell at Thermopylæ's tryst,
Or the Persians and Xerxes? His judges or Socrates? Pilate or Christ?

W. W. STORY.

—A despatch from Rome intimates the probability that Italy will soon resume diplomatic intercourse with the United States.—*The Watchman*.

—The soldiers of the great Italian army receive their clothing and food and a penny a day.

—“*An Official Tour along the eastern coast of Tunis*,” by Amos Perry, LL.D. An interesting book with map and portraits. A fuller notice will be given in our next number.

THE WORLD AT PEACE.

At the Columbus-avenue Universalist (Dr. Miner's) Church, Sunday, Nov. 22, Rev. William G. Hubbard preached a sermon on "Peace," in course of which he said:

Christ repealed the old law of force and taught what the great Erasmus called "The new philosophy," namely, love to enemies. We have further seen that Christ taught, "The Son of Man came not to destroy men's lives, but to save them;" we have deduced the conclusion that if we are carrying on the work of our Master we must not destroy men's lives but save them.

These teachings of Jesus Christ and the apostles were received by the early Christians as forbidding the use of the sword and all carnal warfare; so that for 200 or 300 years no Christian could be found in the armies of the world. There are many instances on record of the early Christians refusing to fight.

Early in the fourth century Constantine the Great professed to be converted and united the church and state; but he continued at the head of his troops and led Christians into his army. Thus the church locked arms with the world. She was thus shorn of her power, and immediately began to decline, and we dare say that there is no fact in history to which the Dark ages is more clearly attributable than that of Christians taking up carnal weapons and engaging in the destruction of their fellow-men contrary to the instruction of Jesus.

But five centuries ago, before the day of courts and justice, if two neighbors differed, they met in physical contest, sometimes with fists, sometimes with weapons. The one coming off victorious was declared to be right; but you and I look upon such a thing as a relic of the Dark ages, and neighbors would not be allowed to adjust their differences in that way to-day. The mind, not the muscle, is the only true arbitrator of justice. The Christian sentiment of this day does not permit neighbors to settle their disputes by force. If it is not right for two men to settle a dispute by force, how can it be right for ten men?

And if it is not right for ten men it cannot be right for a thousand or a hundred thousand. If it is right for two men to refer their differences to disinterested minds in a court of justice or to a committee of arbitration, much more is it a binding duty upon nations to refer all differences that cannot be settled by diplomacy to a high court of arbitration.

The result of our seed-sowing has been some of the greatest events of modern times. Let me call your attention to a few great facts: In 1887, 232 members of the British Parliament signed a petition in favor of arbitration, and this petition was addressed to the President of the United States. Think of it! members of the British Parliament petitioning our President instead of their own government! Why? Because they said the United States was best suited by geography and by character to lead the nations of the earth in favor of peace.

After the petition was signed they sent a delegation across the ocean to lay the petition before the President. They were cordially received by President Cleveland, who expressed sympathy with their mission and promised to do what he could to secure arbitration between the United States and the other countries. They addressed great meetings on the subject of arbitration in Washington, New York, Philadelphia and Boston. Quickly succeeding this great movement, when Blaine came into office, he set on foot a movement in favor of a conference of

nations. That conference, representing eleven nations, including North, South and Central Americas, met in Washington last winter. While they discussed many questions pertaining to commerce, finance and the general interests pertaining to the sisterhood of these nations, the great theme was a system of arbitration, by which war might forever be avoided between these countries. They adopted a resolution recommending to the nations such a system of arbitration. The representatives of seven nations signed the proposition before they left Washington, thus assuring its final adoption.

The meeting of such a congress of nations and the passing of such a resolution is the greatest event that has occurred during your lifetime or mine, the most far-reaching in its influence, the most beneficent in its results.

And the accomplishment of this great event is the brightest page in the brilliant history of that great statesman, James G. Blaine. It will hand his name down further to future generations than any other act of his life.

In closing the international congress Mr. Blaine said: "If, in this closing hour, the conference had but one deed to celebrate, we should dare call the world's attention to the deliberate, confident, solemn dedication of two great continents to peace and to the prosperity which has peace for its foundation. We hold up this new magna charter, which abolishes war and substitutes arbitration between the American republics as the first and great fruit of the international congress."—*Boston Daily Traveller*.

THE COMING WAR.

MURAT HALSTEAD.

European complications are increasing in gravity, and while professions of intensely peaceful purposes are constantly uttered by the highest authorities, there is a steady drift toward war. Certainly, war is the logic of the situation, unless we accept the theory that the military machines are so enormous that it is national destruction to put them in motion, and there is an instinctive evasion of the awful consequences stronger than popular animosity or imperial ambition. Twenty-one years after Sedan, France has regained self-confidence through her unparalleled armament and the friendly demonstrations of Russia. Three things have for several years been wanting to war—first, the armies were not provided with the latest improved magazine rifles; second, France, without allies, was fretful but cautious; third, the alliance of Germany, Austria and Italy, holding the centre of Europe, guaranteed peace by superior force. But the French republic is no longer isolated and overawed. Bismarck and Crispi are out; Italy is tottering under the burdens assumed, with a position greater than she can fulfil. The French, with nothing to fear from the monarchists at home, command the respect of the ruler of Russia. The visit of the fleet of France to the Baltic was a far more notable event than the German emperor's English excursion. Statesmanship in Germany, that she may be secure in what she holds—and she can ask no higher destiny until there is larger liberty for the people—consists, as the old Emperor William said in his last words, in treating the czar with the greatest consideration. The one peril of Germany is the united action of Russia and France, for the despotism of the east and the republic of the west

of Europe have much in common, and Russia has wrongs to redress on the Danube, as the French on the Rhine. Russia, after the conquest of Turkey, had the fruits of victory snatched away from her, and the very provinces she won with the sword have been erected into kingdoms to block her progress in the Balkans, and are barriers to the accomplishment of her destiny on the Dardanelles. For the first time in history Russia finds France ready to concede to her Constantinople, and the French have a deepened interest in eastern questions, because resentful of the occupation of Egypt by England. It has long been believed by those competent to hold opinions of European affairs, that some eastern question is to be the torch that shall set the world on fire. Turkey as well as France is against England in Egypt, and ready on that account to concede much to Russia, as is seen in her complacency about the passage of the Dardanelles by the Russian ships having troops and munitions of war. Russia will not listen patiently to remonstrances on that subject. She will not allow her ancient enemies forever to shut her out from the Mediterranean. She is going there through the Sea of Marmora, and to the Indian ocean by the way of the Persian gulf. Then she will have unobstructed gateways to all the oceans. The comparative isolation that she has endured for centuries is intolerable, and if its indefinite continuance has to be broken by the strong hand, the blow will be struck; and if it is the business of Austria, Italy, Germany and England, they will have to choose the form of the expression of their discontent. Russia has cast aside with contempt the restraint put upon her by the treaty of Paris, and she will do the same with the provisions of the treaty of Berlin, that assume her submission in eastern matters to western Europe. The power that discomposes Russia in the Balkans is Austria, and her war party has evidently long contemplated an Austrian campaign. The German emperor turns to Austria as his most reliable and strongest ally, and recently assisted the Austrian emperor in military manœuvres, applauding and gracious to excess, but about as diplomatic as in the mission of his mother to Paris, and his ostentatious visit to England. The next thing was the call at Munich, the consultation over the idiot king of Bavaria, and the lavish compliments bestowed on the two Bavarian army corps. At the same time France was rehearsing, with 110,000 men, an advance with her whole force to recover the lost provinces. After twenty years hard work and immense expenditure the French have an army far greater than they ever mustered, equipped with rifles and artillery the very latest and most efficient, and animated by a revengeful and vain spirit that makes them most dangerous antagonists. The feeling that Russia will at least show fair play has aroused the keenest expectancy, and the universal feeling is that the collision of armed millions postponed year after year for competitive preparation cannot be much longer deferred. Now that France is defiant Germany will surely accept her challenge. If it were not for Alsace and Lorraine, Strasburg and Metz, peace and presently disarmament would be possible, but Germany, to make her title good to her territorial gains, must defeat the French once more. This is the fatality. England can take Egypt; Russia, Constantinople; Austria, Salonica; Greece, Macedonia, and thus extinguish eastern questions by the absorption of Turkey in Europe, but the boundary issue between France and Germany continues as of old and renewed by every generation, remains inveterate and implacable.—*The Cosmopolitan*.